

# CITY CONTACT



*A Quarterly Publication  
from the City of Mound*

NOV DEC JAN  
2013-2014

*The City of Mound, through teamwork and cooperation, provides, at a reasonable cost, quality services that respond to the needs of all citizens, fostering a safe, attractive and flourishing community.*

## Message from the Mayor .....

Dear Fellow Citizens of Mound,

Why does the former Walgreens / Thrifty White Drug building continue to sit empty?

This is a concern that I hear from time to time. Perhaps an explanation is in order that may help us all to understand why this building continues to sit empty.



Mark Hanus

When Walgreens bought out Thrifty White and moved into the building in Commerce Place, they entered into a long term lease with the owner of the Center. When Walgreens moved across the street into their new building, the original lease continued in effect. So, even though Walgreens is no longer in that location, the Center owners continue to draw rents on the building from Walgreens. The space is subject to very little wear and tear as it sits idle, further lessening the incentive to attain an occupant.

As long as the lease is in effect and the rents are being paid, there is no reason for the property owners to cancel the lease and gamble on a new tenant. Of course the City would prefer that it be filled as quickly as possible. But this is a business decision made by the Center owners and it's not the city's role to meddle into those business decisions. They have to do what's right for them.

Some of you may recall the former Hardees building, now West Lakes Dentistry, sat empty for a long time as well. Both of these long-term vacancies occurred for the same reason. As with Hardees, eventually this location will be filled as well.

I hope this may help some to understand why this happens the way it does.

I wish everyone a great upcoming holiday season. Hunker down, winter is close at hand!

Respectfully,

*Mayor Mark Hanus*

***Mound  
On the Move!***



**CITY HALL MOVED OCTOBER 23RD!!**

**Our new address is: 2415 Wilshire Boulevard  
(The Public Safety Building)**

# ***Message from the City Manager ...***

## ***Mound on the Move***



Kandis Hanson

Mound City Council commissioned a Market Study by Maxwell Research to uncover the housing, retail and hotel demands of Mound and our neighbor communities and what can be financially supported by the population. What follows is a summary of the findings.

### **Mound Strengths**

- Close proximity to Lake Minnetonka
- Small town environment with basic services available in town
- The most affordable housing around Lake Minnetonka
- The last restaurant site on Lake Minnetonka
- Highly rated school system
- Significant upgrades to infrastructure: downtown and city-wide
- The Dakota Trail
- Community-based events
- Improvements in Downtown, presenting a more attractive image

### **Mound Weaknesses**

- Distance from large major thoroughfares
- Limited larger 'supporting retail'
- Competition from nearby retail developments
- Commuters leave to jobs outside the city—3,800 workers leave each day—creating a limited base of people to support daytime traffic at restaurants and retail stores

### **Attracting Business**

- Redevelopment of Commerce Place Center—improvements to all 4 corners
- A multifamily development in the Mound Harbor District, not at the waterfront
- Additional multifamily housing for sale and rental broadens the housing base and creates new options for households to choose Mound as home
- Attract targeted destination businesses on Auditor's Road, along the waterfront
- Attract small light industrial/higher technology businesses to Balboa Business Center
- Combine public/private uses for a signature redevelopment project
- New construction is expensive; consider vintage look of existing buildings on 110 N & S
- Increase awareness of development opportunities with city website
- Formalize Economic Development Committee; assist in targeting businesses with 'fit'
- Avoid duplication of businesses; target needs not being met

### **Hotel**

- Do not recommend a hotel at this time
- Lack of demand Sunday through Thursday
- 19 hotels in the area have a total of 1,790 rooms
- Two to be built in Wayzata and Excelsior, adding approximately 125 rooms

### **Retail Gaps (leakage)**

- General Merchandise
- Shoes
- Books, Periodicals
- Health and Personal Care Stores
- Gift Stores
- Sporting Good, Outfitter
- Limited-Service Eating Places

These findings set the course of work for Community Development Director Sarah Smith and me for the coming months and years. A proactive effort will be made to attract businesses and developers that will address the needs and gaps. City Staff is committed to hearing from community stakeholders and encouraging local investment in Mound. Contact me at [KandisHanson@cityofmound.com](mailto:KandisHanson@cityofmound.com) or 952-472-0609 or Sarah Smith at [SarahSmith@cityofmound.com](mailto:SarahSmith@cityofmound.com) or 952-472-0604. Summary and full versions of the Maxfield Market Study are available at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com).



## Mound Fire Department Safety Tips: Gas Leaks.....

Fall and winter months bring the heating season upon us. The cold weather heating season typically means that our furnaces and heaters startup, which can occasionally leak gas. Other gas fired appliances in our houses also have the potential for a gas leak. While natural and propane gas are typically safe, there are inherent dangers if proper safety precautions are not taken.


**If you smell natural or propane gas (a rotten egg smell) inside or outside your home, follow these steps:**

**Step 1:** Leave the premises immediately! Do not use electric switches, house telephones, cell phones, or anything that could cause a spark. Do not return inside the building or drive a car to exit a garage until you have the "all clear" from emergency responders.

**Step 2:** Go to a safe location, referred to as the 'safe zone.' Call 911 immediately to report the leak. After calling 911, call the gas company. Never assume someone else has called 911 and reported the gas leak. Alert your neighbors that there may be a gas leak.

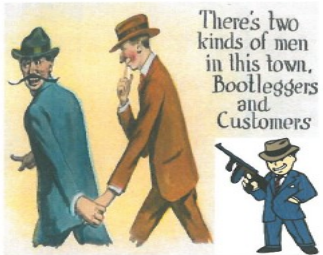
**Step 3:** Watch for the Police, Fire, and gas company personnel to arrive, and then communicate with the emergency responders the details of the gas leak.

**Step 4:** Never try to repair a natural gas leak yourself; leave all repairs to a trained technician. The gas company will re-light pilot lights and assist with appliance startup.



**Harbor**  
WINE & SPIRITS

2135 Commerce Blvd  
Mound, MN 55364  
952-472-0648



There's two kinds of men in this town. Bootleggers and Customers

# "End Of Prohibition Sale"

## Come Celebrate The 80th Anniversary Of The 18th Amendment's Demise!!

### Thursday, December 5th, 2013

## Receive 15% Off All Alcoholic Beverages All Day Long!!!

*Sorry, No Other Discounts Apply*

## Free Samplings Noon - 8pm! One Day Only!!!

## Recycle half of all you throw

Do you know how easy it is to juice up your recycling? Milk it for all it's worth? Of more than a million tons of garbage thrown away each year, we only recycle 39 percent. We can do more! Help the city reach our goal of recycling at least 50 percent of all waste by 2015!

To help you get to half, remember to recycle all of these materials that are still commonly thrown in the trash:

- Milk cartons & juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Produce, deli and takeout containers
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes.
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other plastic containers

Also remember to recycle everywhere you go – at home, at work and at play! If you're still not certain how to recycle some of your stuff, learn more about what you can recycle and get all of your recycling questions answered at [RecycleHalf.com](http://RecycleHalf.com).

## Mound City Hall Dedicated as Centennial Building!

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Mound City Hall was officially dedicated as the 'Centennial Building'. Built in 1974, and expanded in 1983, the building was the home to local government in Mound over the years.

Most recently, in its decision to contract for police services with the City of Orono, space in the Public Safety Facility was vacated. In its commitment to keeping its buildings occupied and at full use, Mound City Hall is now located at 2415 Wilshire Boulevard, in the former police quarters. Minimal improvements were done to make it fully functional as a city hall.

At the same time, the City is taking tenants at the Centennial Building, with the intent of offering space to quasi-governmental and non-profit organizations. Tenants to date are: Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, Westonka Historical Society & Museum, Hennepin County Assessors and WeCAB, the locally-grown volunteer driver transportation organization. The City of Mound will continue to hold Council Meetings and Commission Meetings in the former city space. Space remains for one large and one small tenant. Contact Catherine Pausche at 952-472-0633 for leasing information.

Congratulations to the occupants of the Centennial Building—a new use for new times!

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## Get to Know Your City Code

by City Clerk Catherine Pausche

### Featured Topic: Chapter 14 as it relates to restrictions on feeding wildlife

The City Code has just been amended to restrict the feeding of wildlife. The feeding of wildlife is detrimental to the normal patterns and health of wildlife and can cause a public health nuisance, property damage, and safety hazards that are detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of the public.

The Code states that no person shall feed or allow the feeding of wildlife, including but not limited to the following non-domesticated animals: raccoons, squirrels, chipmunks, deer, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons, seagulls, or other wild or feral animals or fowl, within any place within the city. The penalty for violation is a misdemeanor, but some exceptions do apply. See the City website for the entire text.



The new Code provision allows for the feeding of birds.

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## Budget and Capital Investment Update for 2014

The City Council approved the 2014 preliminary budget and levy at the August 27, 2013 regular council meeting. The budget reflects a \$150,000 reduction to the General Fund Levy, or (4.23%), and an overall levy decrease of (1.18%). General Fund Expenditures are budgeted at \$4.95M, which is an increase of 0.89% over the 2013 budget and only 0.58% higher than the 2010 actual expenditures. 2013 was the last year of the neighborhood street improvement project. The feeder streets such as Three Points Boulevard and Grandview Boulevard will be completed over the next five years. In addition, improvements to water, sanitary sewer, and storm water infrastructure will continue.

Once approved, the preliminary levy amount can go down or stay the same, but can't go up when the final levy is approved in December. Tax payers will have an opportunity to comment on the final budget and levy when it is brought to the Council for approval at the Tuesday, December 10, 2013 regular city council meeting. The 2014 preliminary budget and 5 year capital improvement plan are also available on the City's website.





## Only YOU Can Prevent Sanitary Sewer Backups!

**IMPORTANT  
PLEASE READ**

Most sanitary sewer back-ups are caused by foreign materials being flushed into the system via toilets, laundry drains, floor drains, etc. When **diapers, shop rags, paper towels, oil, grease, dirt and mud, cleaning pads and wipes (i.e., Swiffer, Pledge, Clorox pads/wipes) and the new personal cleansing cloths** are flushed into the system, back-ups may occur.

The City is once again asking residents to **limit what they are flushing into the sanitary sewer system**, via the toilet, laundry tubs, floor drains, etc. Items like these can cause the pumps at the sanitary lift stations to clog, which can cause a sewer back-up into private properties. **Item of note:** If a sewer back-up occurs due to circumstances beyond the City's control, the homeowner is responsible for damages caused, not the City.

## ????? Did you know ?????

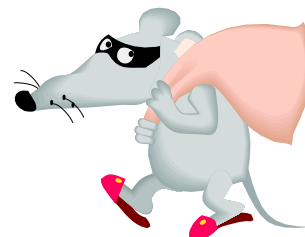
**Utility Billing** customers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for the **Auto Pay Plan**. Under the program, amounts can be deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date or on the next business day if the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday. **E-bill** forms are available as well. Please help the City be more efficient by signing up for these services! Find forms on our website at [www.cityofmound.com](http://www.cityofmound.com) or by calling Customer Service at (651)255-0972.

**Dock Program** applications will be sent to existing license holders the last week of December. Look for new options to renew and pay for your dock or slip! Wait list applications to renew your spot or to sign up for the first time will be posted on the website. **All applications**, including those for the Lost Lake Slips, **must be returned between January 2, 2014 and February 28, 2014. There are no exceptions to this policy.**

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## Crime Mapping.....

The Orono Police Department is proud to announce a new online communication system for keeping citizens informed about crime in our community. This new system uses a crime map called RAIDS Online ([www.raidsonline.com](http://www.raidsonline.com)) that maps and analyzes crime data, alerts citizens to crimes in their area, and provides the Orono Police Department with the ability to alert citizens about crimes as they occur.



Citizens are able to view a map and grid that pinpoints crimes in their area, sign-up for automatic email notices, and submit an anonymous tip directly to the Orono Police Department. RAIDS Online also provides basic information about incidents, including the type of crime, location type, block-level address, date, and time.

"The Orono Police Department's participation in RAIDS Online highlights their commitment to proactive communication with the public they serve" said Sean Bair, founder of BAIR Analytics. "We're excited to partner with the Orono Police Department to provide this free service for their public."

In addition to the online version, RAIDS Online Mobile is also available for mobile devices. Users can sign up for automatic neighborhood watch reports that email any recent crime activity on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule. The RAIDS Online Mobile app is available FREE in the App Store.

**See Orono's crime map at: <http://www.raidsonline.com/?address=Orono,%20MN>**



## Westonka History Museum at the Centennial Building

Since its Open House in mid June, the Westonka History Museum has welcomed visitors each Saturday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. More visitors have enjoyed the collections of town and school history, Native American and Andrews Sisters history, and the Tonka Toy collection in these few weeks than visited the previous site in an entire year!

Thanks to a new volunteer, Ron Pauly, the Tonka Toy collection has doubled to 200 toys, in new/mint condition. Ron loaned some of his own collection to join the Lloyd Laumann collection of donated trucks and other Tonka products in the Tonka Toy Room.

In addition to Saturday visitors, groups have called to make appointments to tour on other days, when a small fee is charged. The Class of '61 visited during their annual class reunion. An antiques club is scheduled to tour in November.

Monthly events will be held throughout the year, hosted in the Council Chambers, including book talks and scrapbooking events for Scouts. Check out our website at [www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.westonkahistoricalsociety.org) and/or The Laker newspaper calendar for dates and topics.

If you would like to help in some way, call 952-472-9800 to leave a message.

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Change Your Clock



Change Your Battery

### Change Your Clock, Change Your Batteries.....

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and marks the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery Program," sponsored by Energizer and the International Association of Fire Chiefs. It reminds us to test and change batteries in our smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The message is simple and the habit can be lifesaving.

You are encouraged to use the extra hour you "gain" from Daylight Saving Time to change batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, and remind friends and family to do the same. Get free batteries from the Mound Fire Department, Monday through Thursday, 8:00am-4:30pm, and Fridays, 8:00am-11:30am, beginning October 28th at the Fire Station at 2415 Wilshire Boulevard, while supplies last. For more information, contact Chief Pederson at 952-472-3555 or [Chief1@moundfire.com](mailto:Chief1@moundfire.com).



Are you looking for a meaningful way to volunteer? Do you work from home, have lots of flexibility and would like to give back? WeCAB can use your help!

**WeCAB** (Westonka Community Area Busing) has over 190 riders who have registered since the program began in October 2011. WeCAB now has barely enough drivers to meet the rider requests. Please consider becoming a volunteer driver. As a **WeCAB DRIVER**, you get to choose how often you drive as well as your destinations; errands around town, to the hospital in Waconia, or to church on Sunday. You drive your own car, pick up riders at their home, take them to their destination, and then bring them home again.

Consider this volunteer opportunity as a way for you to give back to your community. Please call **WeCAB** at 952-472-3222, extension 2, for more information about being a **DRIVER** for **WeCAB**. For a volunteer application please check the website - [www.wecab.org](http://www.wecab.org).

## A Bit of Winter Wisdom

With winter just around the corner, the Mound Public Works Department offers the following information regarding the City's snow removal policies and procedures:

Mound Public Works crews are dispatched to plow snow if there is more than two inches of snow.

**Sand/Salt Use:** The City makes a determination whether to apply salt and/or sand to the streets. Sand assists in traction, and salt assists in ice and snow melt, however, salt is only effective in certain temperatures, and doesn't work well in sub-zero conditions. Due to budget restrictions, decisions are made that minimize plowing/snow removal and most effectively utilize our street materials.

The City of Mound has numerous county roads within the city which are owned and operated by Hennepin County and therefore not maintained or plowed by the City of Mound.

Residents are encouraged to drive to the current conditions of the road.

If you have questions or concerns on the condition of our streets, please call Amy in Public Works at 952-472-0603.

## Indian Knoll Manor

### Affordable Housing

In the

**HEART**

of Mound...

Indian Knoll Manor Apartments, located at 2020 Commerce Boulevard, has one-bedroom and studio apartments with income-based rent for qualified applicants. Rent includes heat, electric, water and garbage removal. Please call 952-472-5078 for an application or for a tour.



## Keep Grass and Leaves Out of the Gutter

The City needs to remind you that **no grass clippings or leaves are allowed to be blown onto the streets** according to City Code Section 42-4 which prohibits "Obstruction to the free flow of water in a natural waterway or a public street drain, gutter, or ditch with trash or other materials." These materials travel to our storm drains, which ultimately drain into our lakes. The leaves and clippings not only clog the storm drains, but the organic material degrades the water quality and can affect fish and other aquatic organisms' survival.

The City of Mound offers residents a location to dump leaves, weeds, garden waste, milfoil, and grass/lawn clippings free of charge at The Mulch Store. The Mulch Store is located on Highway 7, three miles west of County Road 44 at 4275 Creekview Circle in Minnetrista. Their phone number is 952-446-1056. The Mulch Store is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. from April 1 thru November 30. Mound residents must show picture identification to use this service for free. This location will also accept brush, limbs, logs and stumps for a small charge. Call Amy at 952-472-0603 if you have any questions.

**Happy Holidays**  
**From**  
**Harbor Wine & Spirits!!**

**Remember:**  
**We Sell**  
**Gift Certificates!!**

**2135 Commerce Blvd.**  
**Mound, MN 55364**  
**952-472-0648**



City of Mound  
2415 Wilshire Boulevard  
Mound, MN 55364  
(952) 472-0600  
www.cityofmound.com

**PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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MOUND, MN**

**\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**City Council Members**

Mark Hanus, Mayor	(952) 472-5480
Heidi Gesch	(952) 472-5508
Kelli Gillispie	(507) 382-2191
Ray Salazar	(952) 472-7383
Mark Wegscheid	(952) 215-3809

Kandis Hanson, City Manager	(952) 472-0609
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**Dates To Remember**

Nov 1	City Hall Seasonal Hours End
Nov 11	Veteran's Day - City Hall Closed
Nov 15-18	Festival of Trees - Gillespie Center
Nov 21	Tree Lighting Downtown Mound
Nov 28-29	Thanksgiving - City Hall Closed
Dec 24	Christmas Eve - City Hall Closes @ noon
Dec 25	Christmas Day - City Hall Closed
Dec 31	New Years Eve - City Hall Closes @ noon
Jan 1	New Years Day - City Hall Closed
Jan 20	Martin Luther King Day - City Hall Closed

**City Hall Hours**

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

**Mound Meeting Calendar**

- City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm
- HRA meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:30pm
- Planning Commission meets the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm
- Parks and Open Space Commission meets the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7pm on an as-needed basis
- Docks and Commons Commission meets the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7pm on an as-needed basis

